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North Pacific Marine Radio Council

11410 N.E. 122nd Way, Suite 312

Kirkland, WA 98034-6927

February 23, 2004

**Comments by North Pacific
Marine Radio Council concerning:
DA-04-378, and
RM-10821**

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Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street S.W.
TW-325
Washington, D.C. 20554

The North Pacific Marine Radio Council concurs with the NTIA petition, dated October 24, 2003, concerning the designation of frequencies 161.975 MHz, Channel 87B and 162.025 MHz, Channel 88B, exclusively for AIS use by both Federal Government and non-Federal Government users on a shared basis nationwide.

The Coast Guard cannot cede its authority to locate AIS shore station transmitters where needed to any private entity. We strongly urge the Commission not to take any action which would in any manner inhibit the Coast Guard in its ability to deploy and operate the AIS system.

Reception of AIS transmissions from Coast Guard shore stations and ship stations should be available for use by all vessel operators and other marine related entities for such purposes as, including but not limited to, marine safety, security and operating efficiency.

Sincerely,



George B. Hall, President
North Pacific Marine Radio Council

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